

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
4 August 2008
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 25 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As we have stated on previous occasions, Costa Rica attaches particular importance to the proper administration of the United Nations system. My Government is particularly concerned about the irregularities identified in the management of the oil-for-food programme; therefore, now that the final closure of the programme is approaching, we wish the Security Council to have all the safeguards needed to avoid the commission or toleration of fresh irregularities in this phase.

In that context, I would greatly welcome coordination between the President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General with a view to facilitating the closure of the programme without exposing the Organization, including the Council, to new questions about the financial management of the programme. We believe it is important that the report of the Working Group on the oil-for-food programme, which is to be submitted on 31 July 2008 (S/2008/492, attachment), cover the following points, among others:

(a) Measures in place to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest, surcharges or other irregularities in the operations in respect of which it is recommended that outstanding payments be settled;

(b) Verification measures in place for the purpose of authorizing payment to suppliers in cases where there is no confirmation of receipt of goods by the Government of Iraq;

(c) An indication of whether the group of companies that are claiming payment and do not have the relevant confirmation of receipt of goods includes any of those mentioned in the report of the Independent Inquiry Committee.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorge Urbina Ortega
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

